The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives a brief summary of important matters affecting labor, occurring in the industrial, legislative and judicial fields, and such other information that will benefit the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

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Those who deny freedom to others deserve it not for themselves.—Abraham Lincoln.

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HOSIERY MADE FROM OLD PIANO; CHEMISTS SURPASS FAIRY TALES

Washington, April 10.—"Modern science produces artificial stockings from an old piano or an old housedress," said E. T. Pickard, chief of the textile division of the United States department of commerce, in a radio address. He said "foreign-made" goods sold in this country are manufactured in the United States.

"The chemist can take the old kitchen table, or square piano, or the discarded housedress, and turn it into a pair of beautiful lustrous stockings," said Mr. Pickard. "It can be done, although in the interest of economy raw cotton linters and wood pulp are principally used as the celluloid base from which rayon is made."

Mr. Pickard said that rayon, the trade name for artificial silk, is now consumed in as great quantities as natural silk, and it is the only fibre entirely controlled by man.

"The reincarnated genie of Aladdin's lamp, known as the chemist," he said, "can take the same kitchen table and make out of it not only a pair of stockings but the very best kind of paint for your automobile, motion picture and kodak films, imitation ivory and amber, various forms of celluloid, gun cotton, transparent wrappings for candy boxes, unbreakable glass and many other things equally astonishing."

Mr. Pickard said that only a small proportion of goods bought by the consumer as "foreign-made" were manufactured in other countries.

"It is because the gullible consumer likes to enjoy the fiction that their millinery, or their costumes, or cloth comes from Europe that a minority of short-sighted manufacturers and merchants cater to this vanity," he said.

WILL VICIOUS COLONIAL SYSTEM BE FASTENED ON THIS COUNTRY?

Washington, April 10.—Is America to have a colonial system, controlled by the military, as under European monarchies?

Is America to have two systems of government—a civil process for its continental area and a military system for its possessions?

The house committee on insular affairs has made a favorable report on a bill to provide a permanent government for the Virgin Islands. This bill, if enacted into law, is the entering wedge for military control that could be extended to the Philippines and Porto Rico.

At the present time the bureau of insular affairs of the war department supervises these possessions. The bureau has no standing in law. It has its power by executive order. Militarists are ceaseless in their effort to give this subordinate branch of the war department all power that goes with rulers of a colonial system.

In favoring the Virgin Islands' organic act, the house committee declares the bureau "is really our American office for overseas possessions."

Opponents of this system point out that the militarists fear to apply this power to the Philippines or Porto Rico at this time, but would first legalize the bureau at the expense of the Virgin Islands, which is practically unknown to the public.

The American Federation of Labor has protested against handing the Virgin Islands over to the military power and insists that the department of the interior be placed in charge. This will make it possible for civilian, rather than military ideals, to prevail.

"The A. F. of L. has repeatedly declared against the civil government of these islands being under the supervision of the bureau of insular affairs of the war department," said Edward F. McGrady, legislative representative of the A. F. of L.

"This policy of the trade unionist said, "is repugnant to every principle of our democratic form of government to compel the civil possessions to be under the supervision and authority of the military organization of the United States."

Organized workers also protest against voting restrictions in the Virgin Islands' organic act, and ask that the policy that prevails in the United States be applied.

"The Virgin Islands' organic act, as recommended by the house committee, supports repeated claims by European peace and war time countries that the United States would foster military power over the civil rights of inhabitants of its possessions," said Santiago Iglesias, secretary of the Pan-American Federation of Labor.

"The pending proposal would be opposed by the people if they understood it," said Mr. Iglesias, "and is the beginning of a vicious system that has brought chaos and turmoil to every nation that has adopted military ruleship of its colonies."

WARD'S FOOD MERGER HAS BEEN DISSOLVED

Baltimore, April 10.—The Ward Food Products corporation has agreed to unscramble itself, and government officials announce a big victory in the district federal court over this $2,000,000 merger. The corporation agreed to dissolve and surrender its charter. It was incorporated in this state with 20,000,000 shares.

Attorneys for the Ward corporation are ordered to certify that William B. Ward has liquidated his holdings, sold by government auditors at $20,000,000 shares of capital voting stock, in the General Baking corporation.

The Ward Baking corporation, the Continental Baking corporation and the General Baking corporation are enjoined from acquiring or holding each other's stock individually or severally or exercising control over each other in any manner.

The corporations, including all officers and employes, are enjoined from agreeing in any manner to make joint purchase of supplies or equipment or for common prices or policies in marketing. The corporations likewise are enjoined from acquiring either directly or indirectly any other baking concern engaged in interstate commerce where the effect would be substantially to limit competition.

William B. Ward, George G. Barber and Paul A. Helms, described in the decree of dissolution as the "triumvirate controlling and directing the baking industry," are enjoined from holding or acquiring voting stock in more than one of the corporate defendants.

WELL-KNOWN UNIONISTS CANDIDATES FOR OFFICE

Washington, April 10.—William B. Wilson, first secretary of labor and former secretary-treasurer of the United Mine Workers, is a candidate for the United States senate from Pennsylvania.

Frank J. Hayes, former president of the United Mine Workers, is a candidate for congress from Colorado.

Frank Buchanan, former president of the International Association of Structural Bridge and Ornamental Iron Workers, is a candidate for congress from Illinois. He was a member of congress several years ago.

ASKS REHEARING

Charleston, W. Va., April 10.—Van A. Bittner, representative of the United Mine Workers in West Virginia, has asked the state supreme court to rehear the contempt case in which he was sentenced to six months in jail. He is at liberty under bond.

The state supreme court recently dismissed his appeal from the judgment of the Monongalia county court, which sentenced him to jail for the making a speech in violation of an injunction.

FEDERAL PENSION ACT ATTACKED IN SECRET

Washington, April 10.—The house civil service committee has reported favorably the Lehlbach retirement bill increasing annuities to a maximum of $1,200. Federal employes will contribute 3½ per cent of their earnings. This money will be returned, with 4 per cent interest, where an employe retires from the service before he has reached the age limit, or to his heirs at his death before retirement.

Secret opposition to this legislation brought sharp criticism from Wm. Green, president of the A. F. of L.

"What is the hidden power that prevents willing members of congress to vote upon the measure?" asked President Green.

"It is strange that notwithstanding a vast majority of both branches of congress favor liberalizing the retirement bill, the opposition campaign from certain sources is placing obstacles in the way of a vote being taken.

"While persons in high authority publicly state that they favor the retirement bill, they injure this cause by raising fictitious issues. The same campaign caused the defeat of the bill in the sixty-eighth congress. The bill passed the senate unanimously and would have passed the house by a practically unanimous vote if it had been permitted to come before that body."

WHEN STATE SETS WAGE WORKERS FARE BADLY

Denver, April 10.—The Asbestos Workers' union of this city is the latest victim of wages-law. The state industrial commission rejected their plea for higher rates because the employers claim that "skill is not required to be an asbestos worker."

The employers said they could develop good asbestos workers in three months, but they acknowledged their argument did not apply when union asbestos workers were concerned. The commission ignored the union's three-year provision for apprentices. Living costs were also ignored.

Under the law it is illegal for workers to strike before the commission acts.

EXTENDS MATERNITY LAW

Washington, April 10.—By a vote of 218 to 44 the house extended the operation of the Sheppard-Towner maternity law.

This act provides that the federal government shall appropriate money which each state must match for maternity and infant welfare bureaus to care for prospective mothers by means of lectures, instruction and, if possible, hospitalization.

TILE SETTERS ADVANCE

Minneapolis, April 10.—Organized tile and mosaic setters have raised wages. The gains range from 5½ to 25 cents an hour.

TEXTILE EMPLOYERS COMPETE WITH EUROPE

Washington, April 10.—A senate committee is uncovering methods employed by the United States tariff commission to maintain high customs duties, while domestic manufacturers who demand "protection" compete with Europe's cheapest labor.

Thomas O. Marvin, former lobbyist for New England high tariff interests, is chairman of the commission. Testifying before the senate committee, Alfred P. Dennis, vice chairman of the commission, told a story of dissension and delay that is the commission's rule.

No action has been taken on the cotton hosiery case, said Mr. Dennis. To prove the need for tariff reductions in this industry, Mr. Dennis said that American manufacturers export goods in competition with so-called pauper labor in other countries. He pointed out that America's annual production of cotton hosiery is 57,000,000 pairs, of which 5,159,750 pairs are exported. Imports are only 427,000 pairs.

Notwithstanding the relative insignificance of the imports, and the fact that domestic manufacturers have such domination of the market that they export $10,000,000 worth of these goods annually, Chairman Marvin and others of the commission protect high prices by refusing to consider the case, Mr. Dennis said.

RAILROADS CENSURED FOR EXCESSIVE COSTS

Washington, April 10.—The New York, New Haven & Hartford railroad and the Central New England railway company are criticised by the interstate commerce commission for excessive payments for the repair of 177 locomotives in private contract shops.

The total cost was $3,310,798.10. According to official investigators the cost of similar or heavier repairs in the same or heavier classes of locomotives in the railroad shops amounted to $1,397,634.17.

The commission said that this excess of nearly $2,000,000 "was unnecessary and without adequate justification."

The report further said that the expenditures were "improvident" and intimated that they would be remembered when the commission was called upon to fix rates to yield a standard return.

The New Haven road wasted much of this money in a way fighting its organized shop employes who were asking for a living wage.

UNIONS TO ORGANIZE NEW JERSEY WOMEN

Newark, N. J., April 10.—Trade unionists in this state have formed a committee to organize women wage workers throughout New Jersey. The call for a conference, issued by the State Federation of Labor, was attended by more than 50 delegates from every section of the state.

The delegates included representatives of cigar makers, makers of men's clothing, shirts, overalls, cloaks, suits and underwear, laundry workers, potters and clay workers, glass workers and rubber workers, waitresses and cooks, nurses and saleswomen, clerks and saleswomen, telephone operators, bookbinders, bank clerks, stenographers and office workers, leather goods, trunk and bag makers and other trades where women workers are a factor.

The conference agreed that while this campaign is primarily for women, no opportunity to organize other workers will be overlooked.

DEATHS IN COAL MINES

Washington, April 10.—Coal mine fatalities during February totaled 164, according to reports from state mine inspectors to the United States bureau of mines.

URGING STATE POLICE

Columbus, Ohio, April 10.—Officers of the Ohio State Federation of Labor warn trade unionists not to sign "rural police" petitions.

UNION MEETINGS AND MEETING PLACES

By WILLIAM GREEN
Editor American Federationist

Every institution must adjust itself to changing customs.

Some of the practices of our labor movement have not changed with the times or the increasing importance of our movement itself.

Among some of these practices that are harmful is that of holding labor meetings in unattractive rooms and locations. With advances in standards of wages and living and social conditions, it becomes increasingly difficult to get men to go to union meetings in unsightly, unclean surroundings. The practice of planning attractive offices and meeting places can be secured without increasing overhead and some element of beauty introduced. This can be done without extravagance and the investment will bring substantial returns in union strength. Some public-spirited person interested in wider appreciation of the beautiful will, no doubt, be glad to help in such an undertaking.

In addition to improved physical surroundings, union meetings themselves may be something more than routine business concerned only with grievances and financial matters. There should always be provision that members may carry away new information and inspiration. Would it not be well to utilize the methods of other organizations and at regular intervals bring a social element into our meeting by arranging for a dinner meeting to which members are privileged to bring guests. The dinner itself can be modest and simple, moderate, so that husband, wife and other members of the family may be invited to the event. It would help bring the family group closer to the union.

These suggestions are all based upon the idea of economies in planning so as to get better service for the same or even less outlay. Extravagant expenditure is neither wise nor profitable. Information and discrimination are necessary to avoid waste.

The union will unquestionably gain in effectiveness by more and stronger ties to bind the membership.

FASCIST SECRET GROUPS MENACE LIBERTY

Tucked away in an Italian cable on the proceedings of the Fascist grand council, printed in American newspapers, is this sinister sentence:

"The council approved orders of the day favoring the extension of assistance for propaganda purposes to Italian Fascist organizations abroad and condemning agitation in favor of parliamentary elections."

The Italian government herein pledges aid to Fascist groups in centers of Italian population throughout the world. The headquarters for the United States group is New York.

These organizations assume a pious aspect. They "will give relief to poor Italians," and they will "counteract false propaganda."

These claims are stage scenery. The purpose is to combat hostility to the Italian autocrat.

While posing as "Americans," Fascists in this country will necessarily throw their economic and political resources against any American who opposes that system. Efforts can also be made to give a Mussolini "slant" to the international policy of the country in which the group resides.

Through these secret organizations, the Italian government will be informed of any Italian living abroad who opposes the dictator. If that Italian owns property in his native country it will be confiscated.

Italian workers in the United States will be told of the state-controlled Fascist trade unions in Italy, which are pledged to not cease work. These alleged "unions" supplant the bona fide trade unions that have been outlawed.

Mussolini's system of subsidizing groups throughout the world is identical to the propaganda of Soviet Russia, except that the former's autocracy and opposition to popular government is favored by special interests, whose spokesmen assure us that "the United States has no right to question or discuss Italian policies."

The American people should know of Mussolini's world-wide attack on democracy and the rights of workers.

OPPOSES PROPOSAL TO REGISTER ALIENS

Washington, April 10.—The immigration committee of the chamber of commerce of the United States has joined the growing opposition to registration of aliens. The committee says the immigration department can meet every need in dealing with the alien problem.

"Registration," the committee says, "would necessitate constant surveillance of a considerable part of the population. It would make of aliens a class officially set apart as subject to suspicion, a class that is comparatively helpless because it is so largely composed of strangers ignorant of the customs of the country.

"It would be difficult, if not impossible, to enforce effectively. It would raise questions of treaty rights of nationals of other powers, unless registration includes citizens of the United States as well as aliens. It would entail large expenditures to pay for even the routine work of registering annually 7,000,000 persons and additional expenditures to pay for a corps of agents to seek out aliens who fail to register and punish them."

CLEANERS RAISE WAGES

Detroit, Mich., April 10.—The Cleaners, Dyers and Pressers' union has established the 44-hour week for women and 46½ hours for male workers. Rates are advanced $2.50 and $3 per week. Women pressers will be increased $3 a week.

WHY TEACHERS ORGANIZE

The American Federation of Teachers was organized 10 years ago by those who sought to free schools and teachers from those influences that tend to prevent educational progress and effectiveness.

Invoking legislative processes to determine educational form and content is a type of the insidious influences which lead teachers into a spirit of revolt.

That "the teachers must live and work in an atmosphere of freedom and self-respect" was written into the preamble of the constitution.

"We wish to encourage all movements having for their object the modernization of the school curriculum to bring it into harmony with social and economic progress," was written into the first platform. The social sciences were advocated as a part of curriculum at several conventions as well as teacher participation in curriculum making.—A. F. of T. Monthly Bulletin.

PAINTERS RAISE WAGES

Cincinnati, April 10.—After a three-hours' strike, organized painters raised wages from $1.17 an hour to $1.25. The wage board of the associated building industries recommended $1.23½, but the workers replied that their employers were no part of this board.

FURRIERS AVOID STRIKE

Toronto, Ontario, April 10.—Fur workers and employers have renewed their wage agreement.

U. S. JUDGE ENGLISH HAS BEEN IMPEACHED

Washington, April 10.—By a vote of 306 to 60 the house impeached District Federal Judge English of the eastern district of Illinois after one of the most bitter contests in recent years. The large vote surprised the friends of Judge English.

The resolution of impeachment charges Judge English with tyranny, usurpation of power, corruption and indecent behavior on the bench. Witnesses testified that he favored friends in bankruptcy cases, split fees with a receiver, used improper language and disbarred attorneys who antagonized him.

Speaker Longworth refused to permit some of Judge English's oaths to be printed in the Congressional Record.

Judge English issued numerous injunctions against striking shop men, and these writs and his attitude toward strikers was made a part of the proceedings. The minority report defended the accused in these cases, and claimed it was necessary for him to "enforce law."

Impeachment of a federal judge is rare. Since the foundation of this government there have been but seven such proceedings. The senate will sit as a court of impeachment. A committee, known as "managers," appointed by the house, will act as prosecutors.

SEASONAL EMPLOYES TOO OFTEN IGNORED

Washington, April 10.—Women's employment in such highly seasonal industries as canning, fruit, vegetables and fish is a serious problem for wage earner and employer. One wants steady work and the other wants dependable labor, says the United States women's bureau.

"The seasonal nature of the work and the perishability of the products cause irregularity of employment," the report points out. "In one week a heavy crop is handled and the next week it is almost gone. Even within the same week the need may be full-time work some days and no work on others.

"Workers in seasonal occupations have too long been considered a group whose earnings are not used for serious purposes. The fact that these workers have responsibilities which prevent them from working more than a short period during the year is insufficient reason for ignoring the importance of their employment. Seasonal workers are essential to seasonal industries.

CITY RETAIL STORES OPERATING BRANCHES

Washington, April 10.—Branch stores outside congested areas of large cities are being operated by large retail stores, according to the United States Department of Commerce. Traffic conditions are responsible for this change.

HIGHER WAGE FOR PRESSMEN

Baltimore, April 10.—Printing pressmen and newspaper managers have adopted wage differences. Rates are advanced $1.50 a week.

Operators' Company "Fails; Mine Workers Awake To Trickery

Pittsburgh, Pa., April 10.—Employes of the Pittsburgh coal company have disbanded their alleged "union" and joined the United Mine Workers of America, after voting to call a strike.

At a conference of these workers the president of the "union" said:

"You are aware of intolerable conditions of employment and impoverished wage rates existing at the mines of the Pittsburgh Coal company, located in western Pennsylvania.

"After an experiment of many months I am convinced that I, along with the rest of my colleagues, have been victimized by designing management, whose purpose is not to deal fairly with their employes, but have in mind the single purpose of battering down the last vestige of organization which will entrench them in a position of high-handedness, and permit them to impose whatever working conditions they see fit.

"The company has withheld helpful co-operation and refused fair consideration of the problems of miners and the welfare of those dependent upon them.

"It is my sincere hope that our little experiment will stand out as a warning that the interests of coal miners will be best protected by the United Mine Workers of America, which is possessed of the experience, the membership and the finance which are fundamental to success."

The Pittsburgh Coal company repudiated its Jacksonville contract with the United Mine Workers, and re-established the old 1917 wage scale. The management aided in organizing the new "union," which it agreed to recognize.

Officers of the alleged "union" say the company "has been making all sorts of promises, but failed in every instance to make good." They say grievances were not considered and the company even refused to pay the 1917 scale. With their scale committee blocked and no protection against what is declared to be "cheating tactics of the company," officials of the "union" acknowledged their failure.

The company and its publicity agents have claimed that if the Jacksonville agreement were replaced by the 1917 scale, the industry would profit. To this, the president of the defunct "union" replied:

"The present system of coal mining conducted by the Pittsburgh Coal company, which entails payment for guard services, employment agency commissions, coupled with a record-breaking labor turnover and huge transportation cost in bringing men in from far-away regions, which, added to the inexperience of the larger portion of the men employed, has resulted in higher production costs on the basis of the 1917 wage rates than was the case when the full rates of the Jacksonville wage agreement were paid to experienced miners affiliated with the United Mine Workers of America."

PUBLIC DEFENDERS PREDICTED BY TAFT

Washington, April 10.—The office of public defender, paid for out of the public treasury, is predicted by the Hon. William Howard Taft, in his preface to a report on the "Growth of Legal Aid Work in the United States," issued by the bureau of labor statistics.

The public defender theory was accepted by Spain in the fifteenth century. At the present time laws of Hungary, Argentina, France, Belgium, Mexico, Norway, England, Denmark and Germany make provision for this office.

Mr. Taft expressed the belief that "there will probably in no distant future, state," legal advice and legal service in civil cases should be furnished those unable to pay attorneys' fees.

The report states that there are approximately 20,000,000 wage earners, "together with an equal number of women and children dependent upon them who also may need the protection of the law, have no surplus with which to pay lawyers' fees."

Inequality before the law, which the poor must face is illustrated by this famous decision: "So limited and restricted is the sphere of action prescribed for the judge as to proceedings on trial touching matters of fact that without the aid of able and experienced counsel the poor and ignorant may often find accusation and prosecution tantamount to conviction."

FEDERAL TAX BOARD SETS BOSSES' WAGE

Washington, April 10.—The United States board of tax appeals has made an unexpected ruling that practically fixes the salary of the president of a corporation for purposes of tax exemptions. The board ruled:

"We are of the opinion that a reasonable compensation for his services, under the circumstances disclosed in the record, is the amount of $12,000 for the year 1921, and that the taxpayer's net income should be readjusted on that basis."

Unless the courts set aside this ruling it may stand as the first case of government salary fixing since the war.

"If the board of tax appeals can fix the salary of the president of a private corporation at $12,000," says the Washington Post, "why can it not fix the salary of the president of any corporation at any amount appearing reasonable from the tax record?"

LABOR RADIO FUND SWELLED BY TYPOS

Chicago, April 10.—The local Typographical union has voted $10,000 for a radio broadcasting station to be owned and controlled by Chicago labor. The board of trustees of the federation of Labor are urging the plan. The executive board suggests that a $2 assessment be levied by local unions on their membership. One-half of this amount will be used to purchase and erect the station, and the other one-half will be placed in an endowment fund to perpetuate the station. Voting power of subscribers will be in proportion to their contribution.

TEACHERS VICTIMIZED

Minneapolis, April 10.—Organized labor opposes the secret and unlawful discharge of seven public school teachers by the board of education. The board's action was taken without giving the victims an opportunity to defend themselves. No charges were presented. Two are members of the American Federation of Teachers. They served more than the five years required by law to establish tenure.

"EQUAL RIGHTS" PLAN CAN'T STAND ANALYSIS

Washington, April 10.—In opposing the "equal rights" amendment, urged by the National Woman's party, Dr. John A. Ryan of Catholic university says the basis of this movement "act upon precisely the same destrinaire theory as do our courts when they invalidate unconstitutional legislation which interferes with freedom of contract between male employes and their employers."

"Our courts," he says, "ignore the fact that men may be equal as human beings and as citizens, and yet unequal in economic power and bargaining power. The National Woman's party ignores the fact that women may be the equals of men as persons and yet be inferior to them in economic power and in physical capacity."

Dr. Ryan's views are expressed in the N. C. W. C. Bulletin, current issue. He agrees that there is validity in the complaints against women's disabilities of a civil character, but he insists that state legislation can remove these injustices. He opposes a constitutional change, however, which would invalidate all legislation that is intended to improve the economic condition of women wage workers.

"Because they ignore the actual inequalities between men and women, because men and women are equal as persons, the feminists assume that they are substantially equal in all respects and may be subjected in all civil and political affairs to the same conditions of the same laws and regulations," said Dr. Ryan.

"They forget that social justice is proportional, not arithmetical. Laws should be adapted to the needs and capacities of each class, instead of assuming complete equality among all classes. In the words of the Austrian jurist, James Kaftan, 'Nothing is more unequal than to treat unequals equally.'"

JUDGE LYNCH ACTIVE IN LAST 36 YEARS

Washington, April 10.—Statistics compiled by the senate committee on the judiciary show that 3,500 persons have been lynched in this country in the last 36 years. This is an average of nearly 100 a year. Of these 76 were colored and 14 were white women. Murder takes first rank in the list of offenses for which persons have been lynched. Some of the lynchings were for the most trivial causes, and these, together with the more serious reasons, indicate the lawlessness and impotency on the part of the American mob.

The senate committee is holding hearings on the McKinley bill, which would make punishment for lynching a federal matter. A similar bill is pending in the house, has been introduced by Congressman Dyer.

Opponents of both bills point to the encroachment of the federal government in state affairs.

NEW JERSEY BARS NON-VOTING STOCK

Trenton, N. J., April 10.—The state public service commission has outlawed non-voting stock. Under this system insiders sell the public stock that is issued to them, and while they issue voting stock to themselves.

The commission said that "the power to control the management of public utility corporations should be in the hands of their stockholders."

The decision follows the new ruling of the interstate commerce commission in the Nickel Plate consolidation scheme.

GAINS IN ROCK

Rochester, N. Y., April 10.—Organized iron workers and steamfitters have signed through agreement, respectively.